

November 15, 2007

Congressman Akin's Statement on THUD Vote

Washington, DC – Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), joined with many conservative colleagues, including Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Congressman Kenny Hulshof in voting against the 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Conference Report.

Along with containing “air-dropped” pork projects that were not debated in the House and Senate versions of the bill, the THUD legislation contained a \$3.409 billion rescission for Highway Contract Authority, which would endanger future highway projects.

Congressman Akin made the following statement regarding his vote against the bill, which did contain provisions for some local projects which he had spearheaded:

“Although we were able to obtain funding for certain high-priority projects in the THUD Conference Report yesterday, overall, we were disappointed by the fact that the bill contained a \$3.4 billion rescission for highway contract authority.

“At a time when MODOT anticipates that the state will face an \$18 billion funding shortfall over the next twenty years, now is not the time to potentially jeopardize future highway projects.

“It is likely that this version will be vetoed by the President, and I will continue to work to help fund much needed transportation projects in our region.”